

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTONJR:SKG

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTONJR

S/S-O: P.JOHNSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 177920 TOSEC 080109

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-L

TAGS: PFOR, IR, JO, US

SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN AND THE SHAH

REF: TEHRAN 7264

DELIVER TO DEPUTY ASSTSECY SAUNDERS OPENING BUSINESS TUESDAY
FROM ATHERTON

1. FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED INSTRUCTION TO HELMS CONVEYING
RESPONSE FROM SECRETARY TO SHAH'S MESSAGE REPORTED
REFTEL:

BEGIN MESSAGE PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE FROM ME
TO THE SHAH:

QUOTE YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY:

AMBASSADOR HELMS HAS CONVEYED TO ME YOUR HOPE THAT WE WILL
NOT LET KING HUSSEIN DOWN WITH RESPECT TO HIS PURCHASE OF
AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FROM THE UNITED STATES. I WANT TO
ASSURE YOU CATEGORICALLY THAT THE PRESIDENT AND I HAVE MADE
AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO PERSUADE THE
CONGRESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR COMMITMENT TO KING HUSSEIN
SECRET

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IN THIS REGARD, NOT ONLY FOR U.S.-JORDANIAN RELATIONS, BUT
FOR OUR BROADER INTERESTS AND POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THE

MIDDLE EAST. I AM GLAD TO REPORT THAT MANY IMPORTANT

MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS AND IN PARTICULAR OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE STRONGLY SHARE OUR DESIRE TO PREVENT THIS MATTER FROM BECOMING AN ISSUE IN OUR RELATIONS WITH JORDAN. AS A RESULT OF OUR EFFORTS OVER THE PAST WEEK, BOTH HOUSES HAVE AGREED TO DEFER ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS PENDING BEFORE THEM TO DISAPPROVE THE SALE OF 14 BATTERIES OF HAWK MISSILES TO JORDAN. IN ORDER TO GIVE MORE TIME TO SEEK TO WORK THIS MATTER OUT SATISFACTORILY, WE FOR OUR PART HAVE AGREED TO KEEP OUR PROPOSED SALE TO JORDAN PENDING BEFORE THE CONGRESS UNTIL AFTER CONGRESS RETURNS FROM ITS AUGUST RECESS, THUS IN EFFECT EXTENDING THE LEGISLATIVE DEADLINE WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE FORCED THE ISSUE TO A VOTE PREMATURELY THIS WEEK. CONTRARY TO SOME REPORTS YOU MAY SEE, WE HAVE NEITHER WITHDRAWN THE PROPOSED SALE FROM CONGRESS NOR HAVE WE MADE ANY COMMITMENT TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HAWK BATTERIES WHICH KING HUSSEIN DESIRES. IT IS OUR STRONG HOPE THAT, IN A CALMER ATMOSPHERE AND WITHOUT THE THREAT OF IMMINENT CONGRESSIONAL DEADLINE, WE CAN ARRIVE AT AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CONGRESS WHICH WILL MEET KING HUSSEIN'S ESSENTIAL NEEDS.

WARM PERSONAL REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER UNQUOTE
END MESSAGE INGERSOLL

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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